

Safety Tips

FOR OPEN HOUSE

Safety is a top priority here at JSC during every normal workday. Open House 2001 will be an extraordinary circumstance involving more than 100,000 visitors, and the attention paid to safety must keep pace with the influx of visitors—many of whom are very young or elderly. There are hazards that no one at JSC can do anything about, such as the heat and humidity, but there are many other potential hazards that can be safely avoided with the proper respect and attention paid to them.

Open House volunteers will attend a training session, which will include information on safety, but it is important for everyone to keep safety issues in mind for upcoming visitors.

James Taylor, of the Occupational Safety and Institutional Assurance Division reminds us of these tips for staying safe:

- Take extra care when driving and crossing streets on-site during Open House.
- Be aware that with the Ballunar Liftoff Festival there will be a fleet of chase-cars who will be intensely focused on following their balloon worth thousands of dollars.
- Visitors may not be aware of our regulations, such as crossing streets at crosswalks or stopping cars for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- A nurse-staffed first aid station will be available in the Bldg. 8 clinic lobby during Open House. The clinic's ambulance also will be available in case of emergency.
- Remember the emergency number is x33333 and make sure that as many others as possible are aware of it. It will be on the back of volunteers' badges.
- Drink plenty of fluids and remind others to do so as well. Houston's climate and extended periods outdoors can make people prone to dehydration. JSC will have more free water stations located around the site near information booths this year, as will Ballunar Liftoff Festival.
- Be prepared to help visitors evacuate during a fire alarm by directing them to stairs on upper floors and building exits.
- Check your tour area throughout the day for potential hazards—including tripping and slipping hazards, sharp objects or edges along the tour route and shock hazards like exposed wires.
- As you check for hazards, keep in mind a lot of children will be among our guests. They see the world from a different angle and may find things you might miss.
- Safety professionals will be walking around and available all day to help with any issues that may arise.

By Eric Raub

Some of the oldest flight techniques in the world will be presented side-by-side with the most advanced space technology when the Ballunar Liftoff Festival meets JSC's Open House 2001.

The Ballunar Liftoff Festival has grown into the largest balloon festival in Texas. More than 100 balloons are expected to participate in the event. It is a competition festival, which means the balloonists will face challenges designed to test their ballooning skill.

Beginning on Aug. 24 and continuing through the 26th, residents of the Clear Lake Area can expect to see large colorful balloons floating through the skies and descending on JSC. Many have beautiful quilted patterns and some have interesting shapes. All of the old favorites are expected to return along with other events to entertain the crowd.

"We do have the Eagle balloon returning," Claudette Alderman, Executive Director of the Festival, said. "People just love that balloon. Also the Shuttle balloon is coming back, and we do have balloon flights, balloon glows and skydiving."

Balloon glows occur at night as pilots inflate the balloons and pulse their propane burners to musical cues. This sight is paired with other entertainment throughout the weekend, such as astronaut autograph signing and performances by the Lonestar Bluegrass Band, Classical Grass Band, Houston Highlanders, Clear Lake Symphony, Astronaut band Max Q and many others.

However, the Ballunar Festival is about more than colorful shapes and music. "Our subliminal message is to entice young people to be interested in flight," Alderman said. "The beauty of our festival is it combines the earliest form of flight, which is ballooning with the most recent which is International space travel."

Festival Schedule:

Friday, Aug. 24, 6-10 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 25, 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 26, 6 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information check out:

<http://www.ballunarfestival.com>

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 3 p.m. on Sunday. There will be an admission charge for the festival.

